

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 68 and 76 as set forth below. The following is a complete listing of the claims pending in this application, as amended.

68. (Currently Amended) A coin counting machine comprising:
a coin input region configured to receive a plurality of randomly oriented coins from a user;
a coin sensor configured to discriminate between acceptable and unacceptable coins, the coin sensor including a magnetic core having substantially opposing end portions defining a gap through which a portion of the coins from the coin input region move, wherein the sensor includes a low frequency winding coupled to the core and a high frequency winding coupled to the core, wherein the high frequency winding is closer to at least one of the end portions than the low frequency winding;
a processing device configured to receive coin data from the coin sensor; and
a communication facility operably connected to the processing device, wherein the communication facility is configured to send information related to the coin data to a remote device located separately from the coin counting machine.

69. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 68 wherein the coin counting machine is a first coin counting machine, and wherein the remote device is a central computer facility which is operably connected to the first coin counting machine and at least a second coin counting machine in a network of coin counting machines.

70. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 68 wherein the remote device is a computer facility operated by a service organization, and wherein the service organization makes a service call to the machine in response to receiving the information from the communication facility.

71. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 68 wherein the remote device is a computer facility operated by a service organization, and wherein the service organization makes a service call to the machine and collects a portion of the coins from the machine in response to receiving the information from the communication facility.

72. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 68, further comprising a movable coin cleaning device configured to receive a portion of the coins from the coin input region before the portion of coins are transferred to the coin sensor, the movable coin cleaning device including at least one surface having a plurality of apertures through which non-coin debris can pass.

73. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 68, further comprising a movable coin cleaning device configured to receive a portion of the coins from the coin input region before the portion of coins are transferred to the coin sensor, the movable coin cleaning device having a circular cross-section with at least one surface having a plurality of apertures through which non-coin debris can pass.

74. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 68, further comprising a movable coin cleaning device configured to receive a portion of the coins from the coin input region before the portion of coins are transferred to the coin sensor, the movable coin cleaning device having a rectangular cross-section with at least one surface having a plurality of apertures through which non-coin debris can pass.

75. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 68 wherein the portion of coins from the coin input region roll through the gap defined by the coin sensor.

76. (Currently Amended) A coin counting machine comprising:
a coin input region configured to receive a plurality of randomly oriented coins from
a user;

a coin sensor configured to discriminate between acceptable and unacceptable coins, the coin sensor including a magnetic core having substantially opposing end portions defining a gap through which a portion of the coins from the coin input region move, wherein the sensor includes a low frequency winding coupled to the core and a high frequency winding coupled to the core, wherein the high frequency winding is closer to at least one of the end portions than the low frequency winding;

a processing device configured to receive coin data from the coin sensor and determine a value based on the coin data; and

a voucher output facility configured to dispense a voucher to the user in response to instructions received from the processing device, wherein the voucher is redeemable by the user for the value determined by the processing device.

77. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 76 wherein the voucher includes at least one anti-counterfeiting feature.

78. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 76 wherein the voucher includes an encrypted form of the value.

79. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 76 wherein the voucher includes a machine-readable form of the value.

80. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 76 wherein the voucher includes an encrypted form of the value and a non-encrypted form of the value, and wherein the encrypted form of the value is decrypted and compared to the non-encrypted form of the value to verify the authenticity of the voucher when presented for redemption.

81. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 76, further comprising a movable coin cleaning device configured to receive a portion of the coins from the coin input region before the portion of coins are transferred to the coin sensor, the movable coin cleaning device including at least one surface having a plurality of apertures through which non-coin debris can pass.

82. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 76, further comprising a movable coin cleaning device configured to receive a portion of the coins from the coin input region before the portion of coins are transferred to the coin sensor, the movable coin cleaning device having a circular cross-section with at least one surface having a plurality of apertures through which non-coin debris can pass.

83. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 76, further comprising a movable coin cleaning device configured to receive a portion of the coins from the coin input region before the portion of coins are transferred to the coin sensor, the movable coin cleaning device having a rectangular cross-section with at least one surface having a plurality of apertures through which non-coin debris can pass.

84. (Previously Presented) The coin counting machine of claim 76 wherein the portion of coins from the coin input region roll through the gap defined by the coin sensor.